

MEMBERS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The Members' Code of Conduct is intended to promote high standards of behaviour amongst the elected and co-opted members of the council.

The Code is underpinned by the following principles of public life which should borne in mind when interpreting the meaning of the Code:

- i. **Selflessness** Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, their family or their friends.
- ii. **Integrity** Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- iii. **Objectivity** In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- iv. **Accountability** Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- v. **Openness** Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- vi. **Honesty** Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- vii. **Leadership** Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

PART 1
GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. Introduction and interpretation

- 1.1. This Code applies to **you** whenever you are acting in your capacity as a member of Cambridgeshire County Council ("CCC") including:
- (a) When acting as a representative of the authority;
 - (b) In taking any decision as an individual Cabinet Member or Ward Councillor;
 - (c) At briefing meetings with officers;
 - (d) When corresponding with the authority other than in a private capacity.
- 1.2. The term "**the Authority**" used in this Code refers to Cambridgeshire County Council.
- 1.3. "**Member**" means any person being an elected or co-opted member of the Authority.
- 1.4. It is **your** responsibility to comply with the provisions of this Code.
- 1.5. In this code:
- "Meeting"** means any meeting of:
- a) The Authority;
 - b) The executive of the Authority or the occasion of an Individual Executive Member decision;
 - c) Any of the Authority's or its executive's committees, sub-committees, joint committees, joint sub-committees, or area committees;
 - d) Any of the Authority's advisory groups and executive boards, working parties and panels
- 1.6. In this Code "relevant authority" has the meaning given to it by section 27(6) of the Localism Act 2011.

2. General obligations

2.1. You must treat others with respect.

2.2. You must not:

- (a) do anything which may cause the Authority to breach UK equalities legislation;
- (b) bully any person

- (c) intimidate or attempt to intimidate any person who is or is likely to be:
 - (i) a complainant;
 - (ii) a witness; or
 - (iii) involved in the administration of any investigation or proceedings, in relation to an allegation that a Member (including yourself) has failed to comply with his or her authority's code of conduct.
- (d) do anything which compromises or is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of, the Authority.
- (e) conduct yourself in a manner which could reasonably be regarded as bringing your office or authority into disrepute.

3. You must not:

- 3.1. disclose information given to you in confidence by anyone, or information acquired by you which you believe, or ought reasonably to be aware, is of a confidential nature, except where:
 - (a) you have the consent of a person authorised to give it;
 - (b) you are required by law to do so;
 - (c) the disclosure is made to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional advice provided that the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person; or
 - (d) the disclosure is:
 - (i) reasonable and in the public interest; and
 - (ii) made in good faith and in compliance with the reasonable requirements of the authority; or
- 3.2. prevent another person from gaining access to information to which that person is entitled by law.

4. You must not:

- 4.1. use or attempt to use your position as a member improperly to confer on, or secure for yourself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage.

5. You must:

- 5.1. when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of your Authority:
- (a) act in accordance with your Authority's reasonable requirements;
 - (b) ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes); and
 - (c) have regard to any Local Authority Code of Publicity made under the Local Government Act 1986.

PART 2

INTERESTS

6. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

- 6.1. Breaches of the rules relating to Disclosable Pecuniary Interests may lead to criminal sanctions being imposed.
- 6.2. You have a disclosable pecuniary interest if it is of a description specified in regulations made by the Secretary of State, (attached at Appendix A), and either:
- (a) it is an interest of yours, or
 - (b) it is an interest of:
 - (i) your spouse or civil partner;
 - (ii) a person with whom you are living as husband and wife, or
 - (iii) a person with whom you are living as if you were civil partners
- and you are aware that that other person has the interest.

7. **Registration of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

- 7.1. Subject to paragraph 9 below, (sensitive interests), you must, within 28 days of:
- (a) this Code being adopted or applied by the Authority; or
 - (b) your election or appointment (where that is later),
- notify the Authority's Monitoring Officer in writing of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interests you have at that time.
- 7.2. Subject to paragraph 9 below, (sensitive interests), you must, within 28 days of becoming aware of any new Disclosable Pecuniary Interest or any change to any such interest, notify the Authority's Monitoring Officer in writing of that new pecuniary interest or change.

8. **Disclosable Pecuniary Interests in Matters Considered at Meetings or by an Individual Member**

- 8.1. If you attend a meeting and have and are aware that you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter to be considered, or being considered, at that meeting:
- (a) if the interest is not entered in the Authority's register of members' interests, you must, subject to sub-paragraph 9 below, disclose to the meeting the fact that you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in that matter. If you have not already done so, you must notify the Authority's Monitoring Officer of the interest before the end of 28 days beginning with the date of the disclosure, and

- (b) whether the interest is registered or not you must not – unless you have obtained a dispensation from the Authority's Monitoring Officer:
 - (i) participate, or participate further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; or
 - (ii) remain in the meeting room whilst the matter is being debated or participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting

apart from making representations, giving evidence or answering questions, prior to the commencement of the debate on that matter.

Individual Member Decision Making

- 8.2. If you are empowered to discharge functions of the Authority acting alone, and are aware that you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter dealt with, or being dealt with, by you in the course of discharging that function, you must not take any steps, or any further steps, in relation to the matter (except for the purposes of enabling the matter to be dealt with otherwise than by you).

9. Sensitive Interests

- 9.1. Where you consider (and the Authority's Monitoring Officer agrees) that the nature of a Disclosable Pecuniary or Non-Statutory Interest is such that disclosure of the details of the interest could lead to you or a person connected with you being subject to intimidation or violence, it is a "sensitive interest" for the purposes of the Code, and the details of the sensitive interest do not need to be disclosed to a meeting, although the fact that you have a sensitive interest must be disclosed.

10. Non Statutory Disclosable Interests

- 10.1. You have a "non-statutory disclosable interest" in an item of business of your authority where:
 - i) a decision in relation to that business might reasonably be regarded as affecting the well-being or financial standing of you or a member of your family or a person with whom you have a close association to a greater extent than it would affect the majority of the Council Tax payers, ratepayers or inhabitants of the ward or electoral area for which you have been elected or otherwise of the authority's administrative area, or
 - ii) it relates to or is likely to affect any of the interests listed in the Table in the Appendix A to this Code, but in respect of a member of your family (other than a "relevant person") or a person with whom you have a close association

and that interest is not a disclosable pecuniary interest.

- 10.2. If you attend a meeting and are aware that you have a 'Non Statutory Disclosable Interest' in any matter to be considered, or being considered, at that meeting:
 - (a) If the interest is not entered in the Authority's register of members' interests, you must, subject to sub-paragraph 9 above, disclose to the meeting the fact that you have a Non-Statutory Disclosable Interest in that matter, and

(b) If the interest is one which a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice your judgement of the public interest, you must not:

- (i) participate, or participate further, in any discussion of the matter at the meeting; or
- (ii) remain in the meeting room whilst the matter is being debated or participate in any vote taken on the matter at the meeting;

apart from making representations, giving evidence or answering questions, prior to the commencement of the debate on that matter.

11. Gifts and Hospitality

11.1. You must, within 28 days of receipt, notify the Monitoring Officer in writing of any gift, benefit or hospitality with a value in excess of £25 which you have accepted as a member from any person or body other than the authority.

11.2. The Monitoring Officer will place your notification on a public register of gifts and hospitality.